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L Press Guidance
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ABU OMAR CLAIMS TORTURE BY EGYPT

Question: How does the United States respond to Abu Omar's allegations that he was transferred by the US from Italy to Egypt to be tortured, and should be allowed to return to Italy to clear his name?

Answer:

- The United States does not transport and has not transported detainees from one country to another for the purpose of interrogation by torture.
- Questions related to whether Abu Omar should be permitted to travel from Egypt to Italy are properly directed to those governments, and we have no comment on this issue.

If Pressed About the Allegations that Egypt tortured Abu Omar:

- The United States continues to raise issues related to human rights with the Egyptian Government at the highest level.

Background:

Abu Omar, a radical Islamic Egyptian cleric who was living in Italy, disappeared from the streets of Milan in February 2003, and was subsequently detained in Egypt. Abu Omar claims that the CIA was responsible for his seizure and transfer to Egypt, and that he was tortured in Egyptian prisons. Italian prosecutors have charged 25 CIA officials, 1 U.S. military official, and some former Italian government officials for the kidnapping of Omar.

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